

TO: Federal Identity Theft Task Force
RE: Comments for Consideration

FROM: [redacted]

I am a retired federal agent who had 34 years working mostly white collar crimes, including seven years working identity theft and Social Security number crimes as an agent and supervisor with the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General. Here are my suggestions for you to consider to better deal with the identity theft epidemic facing the U.S. and the world:

- 1) Force the Social Security Administration to change its ridiculous and dangerous policy of returning counterfeit documents to the person illegally presenting them while attempting to fraudulently obtain a Social Security number or card. SSA is the only governmental agency that I'm aware of that has this policy; they are abetting a criminal act and they are allowing the perpetrator to try again to fraudulently obtaining a Social Security number or card at another SSA office. Do not talk to me about the "War on Terrorism" if the Bush Administration is unwilling to tell the SSA Commissioner to send an email to all her offices rescinding this foolish policy. These counterfeit/fraudulent documents should be seized and treated as contraband and evidence. To take it a step further, wouldn't it be a novel idea for SSA to call the police or some other law enforcement agency at the time this perpetrator attempted their crime?

- 2) The Federal Government should stop issuing all non-Social Security cards with Social Security numbers printed on them (Medicare/Military ID cards/VA).
- 3) Do not use Social Security numbers as the military serial number.
- 4) Instruct all Federal agencies, especially IRS and SSA to warn victims if they develop or receive information regarding the misuse of a person's SSN. If our Federal agencies won't warn these victims, they may not realize they are victims until such time as it's too late to do any good.
- 5) Allow SSA/OIG special agents to disclose any pertinent SSA information (including employment records) to other law enforcement agencies as part of any valid investigation, including missing persons, welfare checks on the elderly, illegal alien checks and terrorism. Remove the administrative policies and requirements that hinder these law enforcement functions.
- 6) Open the Child Support National Employment Database to law enforcement agencies to assist in locating witnesses, victims, suspects and fugitives.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my suggestions.

[redacted] January 7, 2007